

Question-1 If $u = f(r)$, where $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$, prove that :-

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = f''(r) + \frac{1}{r} f'(r)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = f'(r) \frac{\partial r}{\partial x}$$

Now,

$$r^2 = x^2 + y^2.$$

$$2r \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = 2x.$$

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{r}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = f'(r) \frac{x}{r}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} &= f'(r) \frac{1}{r} + f'(r) x \left(\frac{-1}{r^2} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} + \frac{x}{r} f''(r) \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \\ &= f'(r) \cdot \frac{1}{r} + f'(r) \left(\frac{-x^2}{r^3} \right) + \frac{x^2}{r^2} f''(r). \end{aligned}$$

\therefore the function is symmetrical,

hence,

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = f'(r) \cdot \frac{1}{r} - f'(r) \frac{y^2}{r^3} + \frac{y^2}{r^2} f''(r)$$

Now,

$$\text{LHS: } - \quad 2 f'(r) \cdot \frac{1}{r} - f'(r) \frac{x^2}{r^3} - f'(r) \frac{y^2}{r^3} +$$

$$f''(r) \frac{x^2}{r^2} + f''(r) \frac{y^2}{r^2}.$$

$$= 2 f'(r) \frac{1}{r} - \frac{f'(r)}{r^3} (x^2 + y^2) + f''(r) \frac{(x^2 + y^2)}{r^2}$$

$$= 2 f'(r) \cdot \frac{1}{r} - f'(r) \frac{1}{r} + f''(r).$$

$$= f'(r) \cdot \frac{1}{r} + f''(r) \quad \therefore \text{RHS.}$$

Hence Proved. Ans.

Assignment questions

- (1) Find the first and second order partial derivatives of $u = \log(x^2 + y^2)$.
- (2) If $u = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$, show that $xu_x + yu_y + zu_z = 2u$.
- (3) If $z = \log(x^2 + xy + y^2)$, show that $xu_x + yu_y = 2$.
- (4) If $f(x, y, z) = \begin{vmatrix} x^2 & y^2 & z^2 \\ x & y & z \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$, show that $f_x + f_y + f_z = 0$.
- (5) If $z = f(x + ct) + \phi(x - ct)$, show that $\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2}$.